

death of Maio in 1160. On the 9th of March, 1161, noble conspirators, led by scions of the royal house, Simon, Prince of Taranto, bastard of Roger II., and Tancred of Lecce, bastard of Duke Roger, entered the palace, and for a time William was held a prisoner and his fate was doubtful, until the bishops roused the populace and freed the King. The army and navy were also for the King. The nobles were united by feudal grievances such as the law which forbade daughters of Crown vassals to be given in marriage without the royal consent; they represented the feudal and Catholic spirit at variance with the officialdom and the non-Latin elements, and had the support of many of the Lombard towns whose forces they led to massacres of the Arabic villagers and townsmen,

William, however, suppressed the Sicilian insurgents, subdued the barons of the mainland, and returned in triumph to Palermo, in April, 1162. For the rest of his reign there was peace; subordinate officials—for no fresh emir or chancellor was chosen—carried on the government quietly; and William devoted himself to the luxurious life of his palaces, the building of

X»a Zisa, and the beautifying of the
Cappella
Palatina.

He was followed by his son William
II,, called
by contrast "the Good," whose reign
fills the
years 1166~1189. A minor of thirteen
years at his
accession, he did not actually reign
till 1171,